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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: February 28, 2023

RE: **RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MARCH AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
AWARENESS MONTH [REVISED]**

Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MARCH AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH. Council referred a draft of the resolution to the Public Health and Safety standing committee on February 28, 2023. **LPD then revised the resolution upon the request of Council Member Santiago-Romero.**

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

**BY COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO**

**RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MARCH 2023 AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
AWARENESS MONTH**

- WHEREAS,** Developmental disabilities affect men, women, and children of every age and race in the United States (U.S.); and
- WHEREAS,** Approximately 180,000 people in Michigan have a developmental disability, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that approximately one in six children have one or more developmental disabilities or delays; and
- WHEREAS,** Early federal legislation meant to benefit developmentally disabled individuals primarily focused on providing access to basic treatment, but as shown by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act), the law has continued to evolve to prioritize the participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in their communities as well as individualized support and assistance that promotes self-determination, independence, and productivity; and
- WHEREAS,** Detroit citizens with developmental disabilities contribute significantly to this City's schools, families, communities, and workforce; and
- WHEREAS,** Detroit recognizes that every person, regardless of perceived ability, has valuable strengths, infinite capacity to learn and make decisions, and the capability to make valuable contributions to their communities if given the opportunity to do so; and
- WHEREAS,** Detroit seeks to promote community living for individuals with developmental disabilities, allowing them to choose where to live, where to work, and how to participate in meaningful community activities; and
- WHEREAS,** City services and programs must be tailored to support individuals with developmental disabilities in an equitable manner; and
- WHEREAS,** The most effective way to increase awareness is through everyone's openness to learn and acknowledge that there are systemic barriers that reduce the likelihood of those with disabilities enjoying equitable experiences and living independent, productive lives within their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** It is the shared responsibility of all Detroiters to end the stigma surrounding developmental disabilities, and that begins by using respectful language when talking to and about the developmentally disabled community; and
- WHEREAS,** Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize the importance of ensuring inclusive environments with equal access to communication, education, meaningful employment, housing, transportation, and public accommodations;

**WHEREAS,** Equitable experiences and full inclusion is a matter of social justice. Consequently, creating equitable inclusive environments is a shared responsibility of everyone; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** The Detroit City Council recognizes March 2023 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

**REVISED FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

